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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7004

BILL NUMBER: HB 1108

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 4, 2015

BILL AMENDED: Feb 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Dyslexia.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Burton

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill defines "dyslexia". It requires an individual who seeks to receive an initial practitioner's license as an elementary school teacher to demonstrate proficiency in the recognition that a student who is not progressing at a normal rate related to reading may need to be referred to the school's multidisciplinary team to determine the student's special learning needs, including learning needs related to dyslexia. It provides that if an education service center offers inservice training or other teacher training programs, the education service center may offer courses for teachers on dyslexia screening and appropriate interventions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) Under this bill, the Department of Education may not grant an initial elementary school teacher's license to an individual unless the individual demonstrates proficiency in recognizing if a student should be referred to the school's multidisciplinary team. The team would determine if the student has special learning needs, including learning needs related to dyslexia. This may increase the workload of the Department in evaluating the credentials of prospective applicants.

If teacher preparation programs in state educational institutions have not included this requirement in their curriculum for elementary school teachers, they would incur the additional cost of doing so. Additionally, the State Board of Education would have to adopt rules by which applicants would be evaluated. The additional cost is expected to be within the agency's existing budget.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The fiscal impact would depend on local action. An education service

center can offer courses on dyslexia to teachers at its discretion, and probably in coordination with the schools in its service area. Since schools pay for the services obtained, the funding for this initiative would have to be met within existing resources.

Additional Information: There are currently nine education service centers that cover the state. Each center operates in a specific geographic region, and schools have to use the center in their region. The centers provide schools access to services such as cooperative purchasing, professional development programs, and the repair of audio/visual equipment and computers. Funding comes from state, federal, and local sources. Schools pay for the services obtained from their current revenue streams.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; State Board of Education; Teacher preparation programs, state educational institutions.

Local Agencies Affected: Education Service Centers; Schools.

Information Sources: National Center for Learning Disabilities, www.ncld.org.

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